NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

May 12, 1995

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

MUSEUM RECEIVES POTTERY COLLECTION

The Field Museum recently received a collection of ethnographic pottery from central Honduras. A student of **Chip Stanish** (Anthropology), conducting dissertation archaeological research in the Catacamas area collected modern pottery from the last Pech potter who knows the craft. The potter is an elderly woman who learned to make pottery from her family. The Pech people, an ethnic enclave within the Mayan-speaking indigenous groups, number only several hundred people and are rapidly disappearing. These objects (about forty or so) represent one of the last comprehensive collections from a surviving indigenous group in the Americas.

CURATORS COLLECT MUSEUM'S ORAL HISTORY

Chap Kusimba (Archaeology) and **Chip Stanish** (Archaeology) are collecting an oral history of the Museum through the voice of **Dr. James VanStone**, Curator Emeritus of North American Anthropology. They have collected almost three hours of Jim's reminiscing about his graduate education, research in Alaska, and the many years he spent as Curator and Chair of the Anthropology Department. Kusimba and Stanish plan to collect additional interviews with other retired curators.

STANISH RECEIVES RESEARCH GRANT

Chip Stanish (Archaeology) received a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research to conduct archaeological research on the settlement history of Island of the Sun, Bolivia this summer.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

BARB HARNEY JOINS ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Academic Affairs welcomes **Barb Harney** as the Museum's new Coordinator of Sponsored Programs. Barb assumed her new responsibilities on April 17, but many staff already know Barb from her involvement with a variety of Museum projects during the last several years. Previously Barb worked with the Museum's Animal Kingdom staff as a developer for "World of Mammals" in the exhibit "Into the Wild." For the last three years Barb has been a student researcher in the Division of Mammals. And this past fall, she spent two months in Uganda, in collaboration with the

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British group Frontier, teaching and collecting small mammals for the Museum. We are quite pleased to have Barb rejoin the Museum staff.

BIOCHEMISTRY LABORATORIES RENOVATIONS: MORE THANKS

In addition to the people mentioned last week in the *Natural News,* the newly renovated Biochemistry Laboratories facility benefited from the significant contributions of other Field Museum staff, who we also want to acknowledge. Thanks to **Norm Radtke** and **Andy Pavasars** of Facility Planning and Operations for not only ensuring that the project met Museum requirements, but also pointing out and correcting a number of undetected and potentially costly problems; to **Ernst Pierre-Toussaint** and the Maintenance staff for helping with the many finishing touches that seem to be inevitable in a project like this; and to the Engineering staff, including **Rich Kendra** and **Tim Tryba**, for resolving the many small problems and for helping to re-install the water distillation equipment.

Finally, thanks are accorded to the Pritzker Foundation for its endowment to the Museum for research in biosystematics. The Pritzker endowment was one of the primary factors that determined the success of our grant application to the National Science Foundation for infrastructure improvement funds.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for May 9, 1995 was given by **Dr. Lawrence Heaney,** Associate Curator and Head, Mammals, Department of Zoology. Larry discussed patterns of diversity and endemism based on the distribution of non-flying mammals in the Philippine Islands in terms of species-area relationships. In general, the number of species on a given island is predicted to increase as the size of the island increases. As background, Larry reviewed his earlier work to show species diversity in the Philippine Islands is not related to present day island size, but rather to island size during the Pleistocene when sea levels were much lower and land bridges connected certain islands. His early analyses concerning endemicity on isolated oceanic islands in the Philippines found not only low total species diversity but also very low endemicity. However, a recent survey of a small island, Sibuyan, found too many species relative to its size. These conflicting data suggested previous surveys of such isolated islands might have been inadequate. New observations from the previously inadequately sampled small island of Camiguin were completed in March, 1995. Cooperative field work with Prof. Blas Tabaranza, Mindanao State University, representatives from the University of the Philippines at Las Banos, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources and an extensive local crew found three mammal species new to science on this 265 km2 island. Survey of a similarly isolated island, Siquijor, found far fewer species. The paucity of species on Siquijor is directly linked to the complete deforestation of the island. After integrating new data from these small isolated islands, Larry found diversity of endemic species of non-flying mammals to be highly correlated with Pleistocene island size. He noted an important consequence for conservation efforts, since endemic species on the smaller islands are in much greater danger of total habitat elimination than are endemics on the larger islands. Their discovery of three endemic species new to science on Camiguin have greatly furthered conservation efforts to establish a reserve to protect the remaining forest on the island.

JOB OPENINGS

There are several new job openings at the Field Museum. A list will be printed next week.

Hey kids! Do you like rock 'n roll? Then don't miss...

THE EXHIBITS DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

Located on the Fourth Floor
Monday, May 15 at 10:30 a.m. - 12 Noon; and 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Top Seven Reasons Why You Should Attend the Exhibits Department Open House on Monday, May 15:

7. There will be two sessions: Developers from 10:30 a.m. until Noon, and Design and Production from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
6. The first fifteen people to arrive get to coach the softball team for one game this season.
5. Coffee and rolls in the morning, cookies and soda in the afternoon.
4. All design stations and production shops will be open and ready for inspection.
3. Opportunity to be fleeced by professional ping-pong sharks.
2. Ten stylish and fashionable *Life Over Time* tote bags will be raffled off at each session.

And the number one reason for attending the Exhibits Department Open House on Monday, May 15....

1. See if it's really true what they say about Exhibits!

Laura Gates is area vice president of Museum Affairs. **Janet Kamien,** as director of Exhibits, reports to her. Janet is also responsible for managing the Department. The Exhibits Department is made up of both Design and Production, and Program Development staff.

Geoff Grove is the projects manager who is responsible for the general operations of both Design and Production. He is also in charge of the Production staff and all production work.

David Layman is the design manager. He is directly responsible for all 3D design as well as technical design including lighting, A/V and media.

Jean Cattell is the graphic manager. She is directly responsible for all 2D design, both print graphics, as well as exhibit graphics.

Harvey Matthew is controller and, among other responsibilities, processes all purchase orders.

Martina Hough is the department administrative assistant, and supervises the secretarial pool and oversees daily department administrative operations.

EXHIBITS DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Exhibit Developers	Steve Borysewicz
	Gene Dillenburg
	Rich Faron
	Calvin Gray
	Eric Gyllenhaal
	Debbie Mack
	Francie Muraski-Stotz
	Phyllis Rabineau
Developers Secretary	Paula Brandabur
Administration Secretary	Paramays Retty-Cannon
D&P Secretary	Jessica Newman
Exhibit Designers	Scott Donaldson
	Dianne Hanau-Strain
Graphic Designers	Mary Chiz
	Douglas DeWitt
	Lynn Hobbs
	Julie Nauman
Production Supervisors	Ray Leo
	Neil Keliher
	Michael Paha
Interactive Manager	Chris Mailander
Woodshop Manager	Kurt Oldenbrook
Hall "G" Mount Shop Mgr	Pam Gaible
Electrical Shop Manager	Trigg Waller
Lighting Technician	Howard Bezin
Replication Shop Manager	Susan Phillips
Graphics Shop Manager	John Cannon
Production Crew Chiefs	Paul Brunsvold
	George Chavez
	Eric Frazer
	Paul Countryman
Production Specialists	Caleb Donat
	Matt Majer
	Kathy Marsailes
	Scott Mattera
	David Quednau
Preparators	Nel Fetherling
	Rudy Garcia
	Paula Horecny
	Eric Manabat
	Sheldon Moy
	Kent Peaslee
	Daniel Yoshimura
Media Researcher	John Paterson

And numerous volunteers and interns

CONGRATULATIONS! To **Stacey Chavez** (Visitor Services) on the birth of her daughter, **Suzanne Beatrice**, born Saturday, May 6, 1995 weighing 8 lbs and 3 ozs., and 19 3/4 inches long. Mother, daughter and grandparents **George** & **Kathy Chavez** are all doing great!!

"DEAD ANIMAL ZOO" SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 18 vs. Museum of Contemporary Art -- Grant Park

Thursday, May 25 vs. Lincoln Park Zoo -- Lincoln Park

Thursday, June 1 vs. Terry Dowd Inc. -- Grant Park

Wednesday, June 14 vs. Smart Gallery -- Grant Park

Thursday, July 6 vs. Mus. Science & Industry -- Grant Park

Tuesday, July 11 vs. Historical Society -- Lincoln Park

Tuesday, July 18 vs. Art Institute -- Grant Park

Tuesday, July 25 vs. Art Institute -- Grant Park

Tuesday, Aug 1 vs. Academy of Sciences -- Lincoln Park

Monday, Aug 7 vs. Adler Planetarium -- Grant Park

Tuesday, Aug 15 vs. Children's Museum -- Grant Park

Tuesday, Aug 22 vs. ICON Art Movers -- Grant Park

All games begin at 5:45.